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The Ritual

of the

Methodist Episcopal Church



THE METHODIST BOOK CONCERN
NEW YORK CINCINNATI

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FOREWORD

To our Beloved Ministers and Members:

THE General Conference of 1916 adopted a revision of the Ritual of the Methodist Episcopal Church, including the Order of Service for Baptism, Reception into the Membership of the Church, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the Solemnization of Matrimony, the Burial of the Dead, the several forms of Consecration and Ordination, the Laying of Corner Stones, and the Dedication of Churches.

¶ To your brethren in the Episcopal Office it seems important that the entire Church should familiarize itself with this Ritual, to the end that the most memorable events in our individual and Church life shall be observed with appropriate dignity and reverence. Only so shall there be possible such impression as tends to fix in

thought those golden hours, those epochal days and ordinances which come not often in a human life, but of which the memory should be as a perennial fountain of blessing.

¶ It must conduce to the faithful performance of vow and covenant, not only to recall the outward circumstance under which the vow was taken and the covenant solemnly made, but to read in some hour, apart from men, alone with God, the very word of such vow and covenant.

¶ With the family gathered, what could serve more surely to strengthen the hold of religion upon the home than to go over once more the tender words in which the troth was plighted, or the children dedicated to God in baptism, or the solemn avowals given of faith and devotion?

¶ What could so serve as preparation for communion at our Lord's table as careful reflection upon those gracious pleadings of the Invitation, or the searching scrutiny of the Confession, or the comfortable hope which breathes in every Collect: or meditation upon the Prayer of Consecration,

that solemn memorial of the Upper Room, the Garden and the Cross, which, though so frequently repeated, must, nevertheless, move the deeps of our spiritual life whenever heard or read?

¶ Extempore prayer and address will always have large place in the private and public worship of the people called Methodists. We would not have it otherwise, but the venerable order of the Ritual, enriched with the treasures of ancient faith and learning, should also be made to yield to us its own full measure of inspiration.

¶ Desiring that the stately ceremonies of our Church be appropriately observed, solicitous also that the sense of obligation in every vow and covenant be quickened, that every fellowship of high privilege be sweetened, that the great services of worship and dedication shall with new intensity make their impress upon life, we bespeak for the Ritual of the Church the attentive study of all our people, and urge its invariable use upon all the occasions for which it has been prepared.

¶ And may the Great Head of the Church accept the work of his servants and bless this Ritual to the deepening of spiritual life and the extension of his Kingdom.

BY order and on behalf of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

LUTHER BARTON WILSON,
Secretary.

Contents

	PAGE
BAPTISM OF INFANTS.....	1
BAPTISM OF ADULTS.....	7
RECEPTION OF MEMBERS.....	17
1. PREPARATORY MEMBERSHIP.....	19
2. FULL MEMBERSHIP.....	22
3. RECEPTION OF CHILDREN.....	27
ADMINISTRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.	35
SOLEMNIZATION OF MATRIMONY.....	51
BURIAL OF THE DEAD.....	61
FORM FOR THE BURIAL OF A CHILD...	76
CONSECRATION OF BISHOPS.....	85
ORDINATION OF ELDERS.....	102
ORDINATION OF DEACONS.....	118
CONSECRATION OF DEACONESSES.....	126
LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF A CHURCH	135
DEDICATION OF A CHURCH.....	145

ORDER FOR THE
ADMINISTRATION OF BAPTISM

NOTE.—We call upon all our ministers to make faithful use of the forms and orders here provided, and without other deviation than that here indicated as permitted.

We urge all pastors to encourage and train their congregations to participate audibly in those portions of the service provided for this purpose, particularly in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The portions to be used by the congregation are specially indicated by black face type.

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The Sacrament of Baptism

[Let every adult person, and the parents of every child to be baptized, have the choice of either sprinkling, pouring, or immersion.]

[We will on no account whatever make a charge for administering Baptism.]

ORDER FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF BAPTISM TO INFANTS

The Minister, coming to the Font, which is to be filled with pure Water, shall use the following:

DEARLY BELOVED, forasmuch as God in his great mercy hath entered into covenant relation with man, wherein he hath included children as partakers of its gracious benefits; and our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not: for to such belongeth the kingdom of God; I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that having, of his

bounteous mercy, redeemed *this child* by the blood of his Son, he will grant that *he*, being baptized with water, may also be baptized with the Holy Spirit, be received into Christ's holy Church, and become *a lively Member* of the same.

Then shall the Minister say:

Let us pray.

Almighty and Everlasting God, who by thy well-beloved Son Jesus Christ gavest commandment to go into all the world and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; we beseech thee, that of thine infinite mercy thou wilt look upon *this child*: that *he*, being saved by thy grace, and received into Christ's holy Church, may be steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in love, and may so overcome all evil that finally *he* may reign with thee, world without

end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*Then shall the Minister address the Parents
or other Sponsors as followeth:*

Dearly Beloved, forasmuch as *this child* is now presented by you for Christian Baptism, and is thus consecrated to God and to his Church, it is your part and duty to see that *he* be taught, as soon as *he* shall be able to learn, the nature and end of this Holy Sacrament; that *he* shall read the Holy Scriptures and learn the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed and the Catechism; and that *he* be instructed in the principles of our Holy Faith and the nature of the Christian life. And ye shall call upon *him* to give reverent attendance upon the appointed means of grace, such as the ministry of the Word, and the public and private worship of God; and that in every way,

by precept and example, ye shall seek to lead *him* into the love of God and the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you therefore solemnly engage to fulfill these duties, so far as in you lies, the Lord being your helper?

Answer. **We do.**

Then shall the People stand up, and the Minister shall say:

Hear the words of the Gospel, written by St. Mark. [Chap. 10. 13–16.]

And they were bringing unto him little children, that he should touch them: and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was moved with indignation, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not: for to such belongeth the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall in no wise enter therein. And he

took them in his arms, and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

Then the Minister may take the Child in his arms, and say to the Parents or other Sponsors:

What name shall be given to this child?

And then, naming it after them, he shall baptize it, saying:

N., I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Then shall the Minister offer the following Prayer, the People kneeling:

O God of infinite mercy, be pleased to grant unto *this child* an understanding mind and a sanctified heart. May thy providence lead *him* through the dangers, temptations, and ignorance of *his* youth, that *he* may never run into folly,

nor into the evils of an unbridled appetite. We pray thee so to order the course of *his* life that, by good education, by holy examples, and by thy restraining and renewing grace, *he* may be led to serve *thee* faithfully all *his* days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty and Most Merciful Father, grant unto these, thy servants, the parents [sponsors] of *this child*, thy Holy Spirit, that *they* may command *their* whole household to keep the way of the Lord; that *their* whole family may be united to our Lord Jesus Christ in the bonds of faith, obedience, and charity; and that they all, being in this life thy holy children, may be admitted into the Church of the first born in heaven, through the merits of thy Son, our Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

Then may the Minister offer extemporary Prayer.

*Then shall be said by the Minister and
People, all kneeling:*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ORDER FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF BAP-
TISM TO SUCH AS ARE OF RIPER YEARS

*The Minister, addressing the Congregation,
shall say:*

DEARLY BELOVED, forasmuch as all men have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and our Saviour Christ saith except a man be born anew he cannot see the kingdom of God, and also gave commandment saying: Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and

of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his bounteous goodness he will grant to *these persons* that which by nature *they* cannot have; that *they*, being baptized with water, may also be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and, being received into Christ's holy Church, may continue lively *Members* of the same.

Then shall the Minister say:

Let us pray.

Almighty and Everliving God, the aid of all that need, the helper of all that flee to thee for succor, the life of them that believe, and the resurrection of the dead: we call upon thee for *these persons*, that *they*, coming to thy Holy Baptism, may also be filled with the Holy Spirit. Receive *them*, O Lord, as thou hast promised by thy well-beloved Son, saying, Ask, and ye shall

receive; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. So give now unto us that ask; let us that seek, find; open the gate unto us that knock; that *these persons* may enjoy the everlasting benediction of thy heavenly washing, and may come to the eternal kingdom which thou hast promised, by Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Then may the Minister read the following Lesson:

And Peter *said* unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For to you is the promise, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call unto him. And with many other words he testified, and exhorted them, saying, Save yourselves from this crooked gen-

eration. They then that received his word were baptized: and there were added unto them in that day about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers. [Acts 2. 38-42.]

Or this

Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: the same came unto him by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus

answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born anew. The wind bloweth where it will, and thou hearest the voice thereof, but knowest not whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. [John 3. 1-8.]

Then shall the Minister speak to the Persons to be baptized on this wise:

Well Beloved, who have come hither desiring to receive Holy Baptism, you have heard how the Congregation hath prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would vouchsafe to receive you, to bless you, and to give you the kingdom of heaven, and everlasting life. And our Lord Jesus Christ hath promised in his Holy

Word to grant all those things that we have prayed for: which promise he for his part will most surely keep and perform.

Wherefore, after this promise made by Christ, you must also faithfully, for your part, promise in the presence of this whole Congregation, that you will renounce the devil and all his works, and constantly believe God's Holy Word, and obediently keep his commandments.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Then shall the Minister demand of each of the Persons to be baptized:

Dost thou renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow nor be led by them?

Answer. **I renounce them all.**

Dost thou believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son our Lord; and that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; that he rose the third day; that he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and from thence shall come again at the end of the world, to judge the quick and the dead?

And dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic¹ Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and everlasting life after death?

Answer. **All this I steadfastly believe.**

Wilt thou be baptized in this faith?

Answer. **Such is my desire.**

Wilt thou then obediently keep God's

¹ The one universal Church of Christ.

holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of thy life?

Answer. I will endeavor so to do, God being my helper.

Then shall the Minister say:

O Merciful God, grant that all sinful affections may die in *these persons*, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *them*. *Amen.*

Grant that *they*, being here dedicated to thee in holy baptism, may also be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlastingly rewarded through thy mercy, O blessed Lord God, who dost live, and govern all things, world without end. *Amen.*

Almighty, Everliving God, regard, we beseech thee, our supplications; and grant that the *persons* now to be baptized may receive the fullness of thy grace, and ever remain in the number of thy faithful and beloved children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Then the Minister, asking the name of each Person, shall baptize him, saying:

N., . . . I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then shall be said by the Minister and People, all kneeling:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Then may the Minister conclude with extemporary Prayer.

**FORM FOR
RECEPTION OF MEMBERS**

Reception of Members

FORM FOR RECEIVING PERSONS INTO THE CHURCH AS PREPARATORY MEMBERS

[The use of this form is discretionary with the minister.]

Those who are to be received into the Church as Preparatory Members may be called forward by name, and the Minister, addressing the Congregation, shall say:

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN, that none may be admitted hastily into the Church, we receive persons who seek fellowship with us on profession of faith into a preparatory membership; in which proof may be made, both to themselves and to the Church, of the sincerity and depth of their convictions and of the strength of their purpose to lead a new life.

The persons here present desire to be so admitted. You will hear their

answers to the questions put to them, and if you make no objection they will be received.

It is needful, however, that you be reminded of your own responsibility, as having previously entered this holy fellowship and now representing the Church into which they seek admission. Inasmuch as they should find in you holy examples of life and loving help in the true serving of their Lord and ours, I beseech you so to order your own lives that these new disciples may take no detriment from you, but that it may ever be to them a cause for thanksgiving to God that they were led into this fellowship.

Then, addressing the Persons seeking Admission as Preparatory Members, the Minister shall say:

Dearly Beloved, you have, by the grace of God, made your decision to

follow Christ and to serve him. Your confidence in so doing is not to be based on any notion of fitness or worthiness in yourselves, but on the gracious promise of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us.

That the Church may know your purpose, you will answer the following questions:

Have you an earnest desire to be saved from your sins?

Answer. **I have.**

Will you guard against all things contrary to the teaching of God's Word, and endeavor to lead a holy life, following the commandments of God?

Answer. **I will endeavor so to do.**

Will you give reverent attendance upon the appointed means of grace in the ministry of the Word, and in the private and public worship of God?

Answer. **With the help of God, I will.**

The Minister shall then welcome the Candidates as Preparatory Members, and may assign them to classes.

Then may the Minister offer extemporaneous Prayer.

FORM FOR RECEIVING PERSONS INTO THE
CHURCH FROM PREPARATORY MEMBERSHIP
AFTER REQUIRED INSTRUCTION HAS
BEEN GIVEN

On the day appointed, all that are to be received into the Church shall be called forward, and the Minister, addressing the Congregation, shall say:

DEARLY BELOVED, the Scriptures teach us that the Church is the household of God, the body of which Christ is the head; and that it is the design of the gospel to bring together in one all who are in Christ. The end of this fellowship is the salvation of men and the establishment of the kingdom of God upon earth. As helps thereto the Church is charged with the maintenance of sound doctrine and of the

ordinances of Christian worship, and with the exercise of that power of godly admonition and discipline which Christ has committed to her for the promotion of holiness. The duties of those united in this fellowship are to continue steadfast in the faith and practice of the gospel; to promote the peace and unity of the Church; to labor for the spread of love and righteousness; and by word and deed to bring others into the fold of Jesus Christ.

Into this holy fellowship the *persons* before you, who have already received the sacrament of Baptism and have been under instruction in the doctrines of Holy Scripture as taught by the Methodist Episcopal Church, *come* seeking admission. We now propose, in the fear of God, to question *them* as to *their* faith and purposes, that you may know that *they are* proper *persons* to be admitted into the Church.

Then, addressing the Persons seeking Admission, the Minister shall say:

Dearly Beloved, you are come hither seeking the great privilege of union with the Church our Saviour has purchased with his own blood. We rejoice in the grace of God vouchsafed unto you in that he has called you to be his *followers*, and that thus far you have run well. You have heard how solemn are the duties of membership in Christ's Church; and before you are fully admitted thereto, it is proper that you do here publicly renew your vows, confess your faith, and declare your purpose, by answering the following questions:

Do you here, in the presence of God and of this Congregation, renew the solemn promise contained in the Baptismal Covenant, ratifying and confirming the same, and acknowledging *yourselves* bound faithfully to observe and keep that Covenant?

Answer. I do.

Do you receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and do you confess him as your Lord and Master?

Answer. I do.

Do you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the New Testament of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Answer. I do.

Will you be loyal to The Methodist Episcopal Church, and uphold it by your prayer, your presence, your gifts, and your service?

Answer. I will.

Then, the Candidates kneeling, the Minister shall say:

Defend, O Lord, *these* thy servants with thy heavenly grace; that *they* may continue thine forever; and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit, more and more, until *they* come unto thy everlasting kingdom. *Amen.*

Then the Minister, extending the right hand of fellowship, shall say to the Candidates:

We welcome you to the communion of the Church of God; and, in testimony of our Christian affection and the cordiality with which we receive you, I hereby extend to you the right hand of fellowship: and may God grant that you may be a faithful and useful Member of the Church militant till you are called to the fellowship of the Church triumphant, which is “without fault before the throne of God.”

FORM FOR RECEIVING CHILDREN AS MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH AFTER REQUIRED INSTRUCTION HAS BEEN GIVEN

We regard all children who have been baptized as standing in covenant relation to God, and as preparatory members under the special care and supervision of the Church. Whenever baptized children shall understand the obligations of religion, and shall give evidence of piety, they may be admitted into full membership in the Church. See Discipline, paragraphs 49 to 54.

At the appointed time, the Minister shall read the names of the children to be received; and, after they have come forward, he shall say to the Congregation:

DEARLY BELOVED, these persons here present before you are baptized children of the Church, who, having arrived at the years of discretion, desire now to confirm the vows of their baptism and to enter upon the active duties and the full privileges of membership in the Church of Christ. They have been duly instructed as to the truths of the Christian faith, and have been examined as to their fitness for such membership. Before they assume

the required vows, let us invoke on their behalf the gracious blessing of God our Father, and the continued presence of the Holy Spirit who hath inclined their hearts to this end.

Then shall the Minister say:

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, who hast appointed unto children a place in thy kingdom, and through thy well beloved Son didst give unto them thy blessing, we beseech thee that thou wilt visit with thy favor the homes of this congregation, and fill the hearts of all parents with the fear of God and the spirit of wisdom and love. We pray that thy church may be faithful in the nurture of those committed to her care. Let thy blessing rest upon these, thy children, whom thou hast graciously inclined to thy service and to the fellowship of thy people. We beseech

thee, that thou wilt so further them by thy grace and direct them by thy Spirit, that they may be faithful servants in thy kingdom on earth, and finally reign with thee in thy kingdom above, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Then shall the Minister say:

Hear the words of the Gospel as written by St. Luke (Chap. 2. 40-52).

And the child grew, and waxed strong, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. And his parents went every year to Jerusalem at the feast of the passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up after the custom of the feast; and when they had fulfilled the days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and his parents knew it not; but supposing him to be in the company, they went a day's journey;

and they sought for him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance: and when they found him not, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking for him. And it came to pass, after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both hearing them, and asking them questions: and all that heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him, they were astonished; and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? know ye not that I must be in my Father's house? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth; and he was subject unto them: and his mother kept all *these* sayings in her heart.

Then shall the Minister address the Persons seeking Admission as follows:

Dearly Beloved, we rejoice in the grace of God in that he has brought you to this place, and by his Spirit has confirmed you in your purpose to serve him and to live in the fellowship of the Church of Christ. It is needful now that you should declare your faith and purpose in the presence of this congregation by answering the following questions:

Do you here, in the presence of God and of this congregation, renew the solemn promises contained in the Baptismal Covenant, ratifying and confirming the same, and acknowledging yourselves bound faithfully to observe and keep that Covenant?

Answer. I do.

Do you receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and do you confess him as your Lord and Master?

Answer. I do.

Do you receive and profess the Christian Faith as contained in the New Testament of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Answer. I do.

Will you be loyal to the Methodist Episcopal Church, and uphold it by your prayer, your presence, your gifts, and your service?

Answer. I will.

Then, the Candidates kneeling, the Minister shall say:

Defend, O Lord, *these* thy Children with thy heavenly grace, that *they* may continue thine forever, and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit more and more, until *they* come unto thy everlasting kingdom. Amen.

Then the Minister, extending the right hand of fellowship, shall say to the Candidates:

We welcome you to the communion

of the Church of God; and, in testimony of our Christian affection and the cordiality with which we receive you, I hereby extend to you the right hand of fellowship: and may God grant that you may be a faithful and useful Member of the Church militant till you are called to the fellowship of the Church triumphant, which is "without fault before the throne of God."

ORDER FOR THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THE
LORD'S SUPPER

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, or the Holy Communion

[Let the pure, unfermented juice of the grape be used in administering the Lord's Supper.]

[Let persons who have scruples concerning the receiving of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper kneeling be permitted to receive it either standing or sitting.]

ORDER FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

[If the Minister so desire, he may here use the Ten Commandments, with responses by the people, as contained in the Hymnal, Number 738.]

The Minister shall say one or more of these Sentences, during the reading of which the Persons appointed for that purpose shall receive the Offering for the Poor:

LAY not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth consume, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where thy treasure is,

there will thy heart be also. [Matt. 6. 19-21.]

All things therefore whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye also unto them: for this is the law and the prophets. [Matt. 7. 12.]

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. [Matt. 7. 21.]

Zacchæus stood, and said unto the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have wrongfully exacted aught of any man, I restore fourfold. [Luke 19. 8.]

He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. *Let each man do* according as he hath purposed in his heart: not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. [2 Cor. 9. 6, 7.]

So then, as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith. [Gal. 6. 10.]

Godliness with contentment is great gain: for we brought nothing into the world, for neither can we carry anything out. [1 Tim. 6. 6, 7.]

Charge them that are rich in this present world, that they be not high-minded, nor have their hope set on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, that they be ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on the life which is *life* indeed. [1 Tim. 6. 17-19.]

For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and the love which ye

showed toward his name, in that ye ministered unto the saints, and still do minister. [Heb. 6. 10.]

To do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. [Heb. 13. 16.]

Whoso hath the world's goods, and beholdeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how doth the love of God abide in him? [1 John 3. 17.]

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto Jehovah, And his good deed will he pay him again. [Prov. 19. 17.]

Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. [Psa. 41. 1.]

Thou shalt surely open thy hand unto thy brother, to thy needy, and to thy poor, in thy land. [Deut. 15. 11.]

After which the Minister shall give the following Invitation, the People standing:

If any man sin, we have an Advocate

with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.

Wherefore ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and, devoutly kneeling, make your humble confession to Almighty God.

Then shall this general Confession be made by the Minister and all those who are minded to receive the Holy Communion, he and all the People devoutly kneeling and saying:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins

and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the Minister say:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy great mercy hast promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto thee, have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins; confirm and strengthen us in all goodness; and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This Collect shall then be said by the Minister and those intending to receive the Holy Communion:

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the Minister say:

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may live and grow thereby; and that, being washed

through his most precious blood, we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

Then the Minister shall offer the Prayer of Consecration, as followeth:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until his coming again: hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee, and grant that we, receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution,

in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread⁽¹⁾; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise after supper he took⁽²⁾ the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. *Amen.*

¹Here the Minister may take the plate of Bread in his hand.

²Here he may take the cup in his hand.

Then shall the Minister receive the Communion in both kinds, and proceed to deliver the same to the other Ministers, if any be present; after which he shall say:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

Then shall be said or sung by all the People:

[The Hymnal, 741]

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee, and saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high! Amen.

The Minister shall then proceed to administer the Communion to the People in order, kneeling, into their uncovered hands; and when he delivereth the Bread, he shall say:

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ,

which was given for *thee*, preserve *thy* soul and *body* unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for *thee*; and feed on him in *thy* heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

And the Minister that delivereth the Cup shall say:

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for *thee*, preserve *thy* soul and *body* unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for *thee*, and be thankful.

[If the Consecrated bread or wine shall be all spent before all have communed, the Elder may Consecrate more by repeating the Prayer of Consecration.]

[When all have communed, the Minister shall return to the Lord's table and place upon it what remaineth of the Consecrated elements, covering the same with a fair linen cloth.]

Then shall the Elder say the Lord's Prayer; the People kneeling, and repeating after him every petition:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be

done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

After which the Minister and People shall say:

O Lord our heavenly Father, we thy humble servants desire thy Fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and thy whole Church may obtain forgiveness of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that all we who are partakers of this Holy Communion may be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction. And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not

weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

Then shall be said or sung by all the People standing:

[The Hymnal, 742.]

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men! We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty!

O Lord, the only begotten Son Jesus Christ: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*Then the Minister shall let the People depart
with this Blessing:*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

[The Minister is expected to use the full form, but, if straitened for time in the usual administration of the Holy Communion, he may omit any part of the service, except the **Invitation, the Confession, and the Prayer of Consecration**; and in its administration to the sick he may omit any part of the service except the Confession, the Prayer of Consecration, and the usual sentences in delivering the Bread and Wine, closing with the Lord's Prayer, extemporary supplication, and the Benediction.]

FORM FOR THE
SOLEMNIZATION OF MATRI-
MONY

Matrimony

FORM FOR THE SOLEMNIZATION OF MATRIMONY

[The parts in brackets throughout may be used or not at discretion.]

At the time appointed, the persons to be married—having been qualified according to law—standing together, the Man on the right hand and the Woman on the left, the Minister shall say:

DEARLY BELOVED, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in holy Matrimony; which is an honorable estate, instituted of God in the time of man's innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that exists between Christ and his Church; which holy estate Christ

adorned and beautified with his presence, and first miracle that he wrought, in Cana of Galilee; and therefore is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God.

Into which holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. Therefore if any can show just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter forever hold his peace.

[And also speaking unto the Persons that are to be married, the Minister shall say:

I require and charge you both, that if either of you know any impediment why ye may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, ye do now confess it: for be ye well assured, that so many as are married otherwise than God's Word doth allow, are not joined together by God, neither is their matrimony lawful.]

If no impediment be alleged, then shall the Minister say unto the Man, using his given name:

M., wilt thou have this woman to be thy wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all other, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?

The Man shall answer:

I will.

Then shall the Minister say unto the Woman, using her given name:

N., wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all

other, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

The Woman shall answer:

I will.

[Then shall the Minister say:

Who giveth this Woman to be married to this Man?]

[Answer: I do.]

[Then the Minister shall cause the Man with his right hand to take the Woman by her right hand, and, using the given names, to say after him as followeth:

I, *M.*, take thee, *N.*, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my faith.

Then shall they loose their hands, and the Woman, with her right hand taking the Man by his right hand, shall likewise say after the Minister:

I, *N.*, take thee, *M.*, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my faith.]

[If the parties desire it, the Man shall here hand a Ring to the Minister, who shall return it to him, and direct him to place it on the third finger of the Woman's left hand. And the Man shall say to the Woman, repeating after the Minister:

With this ring I thee wed, and with my worldly goods I thee endow, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*]

Then shall the Minister pray thus:

O Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life: send thy blessing upon these thy servants, this man and this woman, whom we bless in thy name; that they may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Then shall the Minister join their right hands together, and say, using the given names:

Forasmuch as *M.* and *N.* have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have pledged their faith either to other, and have declared the same by joining of

hands [and by giving and receiving a ring]; I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. *Amen.*

And the Minister shall add this Blessing:

God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you; and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that ye may so live together in this life that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. *Amen.*

Then shall the Minister and the People together repeat the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our tres-

passes, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. **Amen.**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

**FORM FOR
THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD**

Burial of the Dead

[We will on no account whatever make a charge for burying the dead.]

FORM FOR BURIAL OF THE DEAD

The Minister, going before the Body, shall say:

I AM the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die. [John 11. 25, 26.]

For we know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens. [2 Cor. 5. 1.]

And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God the Almighty, and the Lamb, are the temple thereof. And the city hath no need of the sun, neither of the

moon, to shine upon it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the lamp thereof is the Lamb. [Rev. 21. 22, 23.]

In the House or Church may be read one of the following Psalms:

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 90. 1, 2, 4-6, 12, 14, 16, 17

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God. For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we

may rejoice and be glad all our days. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

*Then may follow the reading of the Epistle,
as follows:*

1 Corinthians 15. 41-49, 53-58

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual *body*. If there is a natural body, there is also a

spiritual body. So also it is written, The first man Adam became a living soul. The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit. Howbeit that is not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; then that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is of heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy

sting? The sting of death is sin; and the power of sin is the law: but thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord.

Or this:

John 14. 1-3, 15-20, 25-27

Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I come again, and will receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Com-

forter, that he may be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth: whom the world cannot receive; for it beholdeth him not, neither knoweth him: ye know him; for he abideth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you desolate: I come unto you. Yet a little while, and the world beholdeth me no more; but ye behold me: because I live, ye shall live also. In that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

These things have I spoken unto you, while yet abiding with you. But the Comforter, even the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful.

Or this:

Revelation 7. 9-17

After these things I saw, and behold, a great multitude, which no man could number, out of every nation and of *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, arrayed in white robes, and palms in their hands; and they cry with a great voice, saying,

Salvation unto our God who sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb.

And all the angels were standing round about the throne, and *about* the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying,

Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, These that are arrayed in the white robes, who are they, and whence came they? And I say unto him, My lord, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they that come out of the great tribulation, and they washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God; and they serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall spread his tabernacle over them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun strike upon them, nor any heat: for the Lamb that is in the midst of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them unto fountains of waters of life: and God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes.

At the Grave, when the Body is laid in the Earth, the Minister shall say:

Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.

In the midst of life we are in death: of whom may we seek for succor, but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased?

Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death; but grant us everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

Then, while the Earth may be cast upon the Body by some standing by, the Minister shall say:

Forasmuch as the spirit of the departed hath returned to the God who gave it, we therefore commit *his* body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; looking for the

general resurrection in the last day, and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ; at whose second coming in glorious majesty to judge the world, the earth and the sea shall give up their dead; and the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in him shall be changed and made like unto his own glorious body; according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.

Then shall be said:

I heard a voice from heaven saying, Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them.

Then shall the Minister say:

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Response Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Then the Minister may offer this Prayer:

Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of those who depart hence in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful after death are in joy and felicity: we give thee hearty thanks for the good examples of all those thy servants, who, having finished their course in faith, do now rest from their labors. And we beseech thee, that we, with all those who are departed in the true faith of thy holy name, may have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in thy eternal and everlasting glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Collect

O Merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life; in whom whosoever believeth shall live, though he die, and whosoever liveth and believeth in him

shall not die eternally: we meekly beseech thee, O Father, to raise us from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness; that when we shall depart this life we may rest in him; and at the general resurrection on the last day may be found acceptable in thy sight, and receive that blessing which thy well-beloved Son shall then pronounce to all that love and fear thee, saying, Come, ye blessed children of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. Grant this, we beseech thee, O Merciful Father, through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer. *Amen.*

Then shall the Minister and the People together repeat the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against

us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.

FORM FOR THE BURIAL OF A CHILD

The service may begin with a suitable Hymn, after which the Minister may offer the following Prayer, saying:

Let us pray.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, the refuge of all thy saints and the sure defense of all who put their trust in thee, lift upon us the light of thy countenance and give us peace. We know not thy counsels, O Lord, for thy thoughts are not our thoughts, nor thy ways our ways. Thou art infinitely holy, wise, and good, and thou doest all

things well. Thou dost teach us in thy Holy Word that all things work together for good to them that love God, and that our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Comfort, we beseech thee, the hearts that sorrow in the death of this child; grant unto them the strengthening grace of thy Holy Spirit, that they and all we who trust thy fatherly goodness and care may rejoice in the promise of eternal life; and that we may be united again with our loved ones in thy heavenly and eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Then may be read any of the following
Scripture passages:*

Mark 10. 13-16

And they were bringing unto him little children, that he should touch them: and the disciples rebuked them.

But when Jesus saw it, he was moved with indignation, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not: for to such belongeth the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall in no wise enter therein. And he took them in his arms, and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will

fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 103. 13-18

Like as a Father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

As for man, his days are as grass: as the flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them

that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

Revelation 22. 1-5

And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the midst of the street thereof. And on this side of the river and on that was the tree of life, bearing twelve *manner of* fruits, yielding its fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no curse any more: and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be therein: and his servants shall serve him; and they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* on their foreheads. And there shall be night no more; and they need no light of lamp, neither light

of sun; for the Lord God shall give them light; and they shall reign for ever and ever.

At the Grave, where the Body is laid in the Earth, the Minister shall say:

Almighty and Most Merciful God our heavenly Father, from whom our spirits come and to whom they shall return, grant unto all sorrowing hearts the consolation of thy grace. *Amen.*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, who didst give thy life for our redemption, and who didst promise the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to thy people, strengthen, we beseech thee, the faith of these bereaved ones, that they may contemplate with peace the blessedness of that eternal home which thou hast prepared for all whom thou hast redeemed. Grant that they, and all others whose joy is turned into mourning, may not murmur nor faint under

their affliction; but, cleaving more closely unto thee, O blessed Lord Christ, who art the resurrection and the life, may be led by thy Holy Spirit through all the trials of this uncertain life, till the day break and the shadows flee away. *Amen.*

*Here the Minister and the People may unite
in the Lord's Prayer.*

*Then shall the Minister dismiss the People
with the Benediction.*

FORMS OF
CONSECRATION AND ORDINA-
TION

Consecration and Ordination

FORM OF CONSECRATING BISHOPS

[This service is not to be understood as an ordination to a higher Order in the Christian Ministry, beyond and above that of Elders or Presbyters, but as a solemn and fitting Consecration for the special and most sacred duties of Superintendency in the Church.]

When the day appointed for the consecration of Bishops is come, the service shall begin with hymn and prayer, after which shall be used the following:

The Collect

ALMIGHTY GOD, who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst give to thy holy Apostles, Elders, and Evangelists many excellent gifts, and didst charge them to feed thy flock: give grace, we beseech thee, to all the Ministers and Pastors of thy Church, that they may diligently preach thy word and duly administer the godly discipline thereof;

and grant to the people that they may obediently follow the same, that all may receive the crown of everlasting glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Then shall be read by one of the Elders:

Acts 20. 17-35

And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called to him the elders of the church. And when they were come to him, he said unto them,

Ye yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, after what manner I was with you all the time, serving the Lord with all lowliness of mind, and with tears, and with trials which befell me by the plots of the Jews; how I shrank not from declaring unto you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks repentance toward God,

and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: save that the Holy Spirit testifieth unto me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But I hold not my life of any account as dear unto myself, so that I may accomplish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, shall see my face no more. Wherefore I testify unto you this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I shrank not from declaring unto you the whole counsel of God. Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you bishops, to feed the church of the Lord which he purchased with

his own blood. I know that after my departing grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Wherefore watch ye, remembering that by the space of three years I ceased not to admonish every one night and day with tears. And now I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you the inheritance among all them that are sanctified. I coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. Ye yourselves know that these hands ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. In all things I gave you an example, that so laboring ye ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Then another shall read:

The Gospel. John 21. 15-17

So when they had broken their fast, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of John, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again a second time, Simon, *son* of John, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Tend my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of John, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Or this:

Matthew 28. 18-20

And Jesus came to them and spake

unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

After the Gospel and the Sermon are ended, the Elected Person shall be presented by two Elders unto the Bishop, the Elders saying:

We present unto you this Elder chosen to be consecrated a Bishop.

Then the Bishop shall call upon the Congregation present to pray, saying:

Brethren, it is written in the Gospel of Saint Luke, that our Saviour Christ continued the whole night in prayer,

before he did choose and send forth his twelve apostles. It is written also in the Acts of the Apostles, that the disciples who were at Antioch did fast and pray, before they laid hands on Paul and Barnabas, and sent them forth on their first mission to the Gentiles. Let us, therefore, following the example of our Saviour Christ, and his Apostles, give ourselves to prayer, before we admit and send forth *this person* presented to us, to the work whereunto we trust the Holy Spirit hath called him.

*Then shall the following Prayer be offered
by the Bishop:*

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who by thy Holy Spirit hast appointed divers offices in thy Church: mercifully behold *this thy servant* now called to the Work and Ministry of a Bishop. Replenish *him* so with the truth of thy doctrine, and adorn *him*

with innocency of life, that both by word and deed *he* may faithfully serve thee in this office, to the glory of thy name, and the edifying and well governing of thy Church, through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, world without end. *Amen.*

Then the Bishop shall say to him that is to be Consecrated:

Brother, forasmuch as the Holy Scriptures command that we should not be hasty in laying on hands and admitting any person to government in the Church of Christ, which he hath purchased with no less price than the shedding of his own blood; before you are admitted to this administration, you will, in the fear of God, give answer to the questions which I now propound:

The Bishop. Are you persuaded that you are truly called to this Ministration,

according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Answer. **I am so persuaded.**

The Bishop. Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain all doctrine required of necessity for eternal salvation, through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined out of the same Holy Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge, and to teach or maintain nothing as required of necessity to eternal salvation, but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the same?

Answer. **I am so persuaded and determined, by God's grace.**

The Bishop. Will you then faithfully exercise *yourself* in the same Holy Scriptures, and call upon God by prayer for the true understanding of the same?

Answer. **I will do so, by the help of God.**

The Bishop. Will you be ready with

faithful diligence to withstand, and to defend the Church against all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's Word and to use both public and private monitions as need shall require and occasion be given?

Answer. **I am ready, the Lord being my helper.**

The Bishop. Will you deny all ungodliness and worldly lust, and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world, that you may show *yourself* in all things an example of good works unto others, to the honor and glory of God?

Answer. **I will so do, the Lord being my helper.**

The Bishop. Will you maintain and set forward, as much as lieth in you, quietness, love, and peace among all men; and faithfully exercise such discipline in the Church, as shall be committed unto you?

Answer. **I will so do, by the help of God.**

The Bishop. Will you be faithful in ordaining and appointing others; and will you ever seek to deal justly and kindly with your brethren of the ministry over whom you are placed as chief pastor?

Answer. **I will, by the help of God.**

The Bishop. Will you show *yourself* gentle, and be merciful for Christ's sake to poor and needy people, and to all strangers destitute of help?

Answer. **I will so show myself, by God's help.**

Then the Bishop shall say:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who hath given you a good will to do all these things, grant also unto you strength and power to perform the same, that, he accomplishing in you the good work which he hath begun, you may be found blameless at the last day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

[After this the Congregation shall be desired secretly in their Prayers to make their humble supplications to God for all these things; for the which Prayers there shall be silence kept for a space.]

Then shall Veni, Creator Spiritus, be said:

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire.

Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.
Thy blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love.

Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight;
Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of thy grace;
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where thou art Guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of both, to be but ONE;
That through the ages all along
This may be our endless song:
Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

That ended, the Bishop shall say:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Response: **And let our cry come unto thee.**

The Bishop shall then say:

Let us pray.

Almighty and Most Merciful Father, who of thine infinite goodness hast given thine only and dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ to be our Redeemer, and the author of everlasting life; who, after he had made perfect our redemption by his death, and was ascended into heaven, poured down his gifts abundantly upon men, making some Apostles, some Prophets, some Evangelists, some Pastors and Teachers, to the edifying and making perfect of his Church: grant, we beseech thee, to *this thy servant*, such grace that *he* may evermore be ready to spread abroad thy Gospel, the glad tidings of reconciliation with

thee, and use the authority given *him*, not to destruction, but to salvation; not to hurt, but to help; so that as *a* wise and faithful *servant*, giving to the family their portion in due season, *he* may at last be received into everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who, with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God world without end. *Amen.*

Then the Bishops and Elders present shall lay their hands upon the head of the Elected Person, kneeling before them, the consecrating Bishop saying:

The Lord pour upon thee the Holy Spirit for the office and work of a Bishop in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the authority of the Church through the imposition of our hands, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.* And remember that thou stir

up the grace of God which is in thee; for God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and of a sound mind.

Then shall the Bishop deliver to him the Bible, saying:

Give heed unto reading, exhortation, and doctrine. Think upon the things contained in this book. Be diligent in them, that the increase coming thereby may be manifest unto all men. Take heed unto thyself, and to thy doctrine; for by so doing thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee. Be to the flock of Christ a shepherd, not a wolf; feed them, devour them not. Hold up the weak, heal the sick, bind up the broken, bring again the outcast, seek the lost; be so merciful that you may not be too remiss; so minister discipline that you forget not

mercy; that when the chief Shepherd shall appear, you may receive the never-fading crown of glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Then shall be offered the following
Prayers:*

Most Merciful Father, we beseech thee to send down upon *this thy servant* thy heavenly blessing. Endue *him* with thy Holy Spirit that, preaching thy word, and exercising authority in thy Church, *he* may not only reprove, beseech, and rebuke with all patience and doctrine, but also may be *a* wholesome *example* in word, in conversation, in love, in faith, and in purity; so that, faithfully fulfilling *his* course, *he* may receive the crown of righteousness laid up by the Lord, the righteous Judge, who liveth and reigneth, one God with the Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end. *Amen.*

Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name; and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

FORM OF ORDAINING ELDERS

[When the day appointed by the Bishop is come, a sermon or exhortation may be given, declaring the Duty and Office of such as come to be admitted Elders.]

After which, one of the Elders shall present unto the Bishop all them that are to be Ordained, and say:

I present unto you these persons to be ordained as Elders.

Then, their names having been read aloud, the Bishop shall say to the People:

BRETHREN, these are they whom we purpose, God willing, this day to ordain Elders. For after due examination, we find not to the contrary, but that they are lawfully called to this function and ministry, and that they are persons meet for the same. But if there be any of you who knoweth any crime or impediment in any of them, for the which he ought not to be received into this holy Ministry, let him

come forth in the name of God, and show what the crime or impediment is.¹

Then shall be said the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel, as followeth:

The Collect

Almighty God, Giver of all good things, who by thy Holy Spirit hast appointed divers orders of ministers in thy Church: mercifully behold these thy servants now called to the Office of Elders, and so replenish them with the truth of thy doctrine, and adorn them with innocency of life, that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve thee in this Office, to the glory of thy name, and the edification of thy Church, through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, world without end. *Amen.*

¹If any crime or impediment be alleged, the Bishop shall desist from ordaining that person until such time as the party accused shall be found clear of the same.

The Epistle. Ephesians 4. 7, 8, 11-13

But unto each one of us was the grace given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith,

When he ascended on high, he led
captivity captive,

And gave gifts unto men.

And he gave some *to be* apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ: till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

*After this shall be read for the Gospel part
of the tenth chapter of Saint John:*

John 10. 1, 2, 7-16

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the

fold of the sheep, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

I am the door of the sheep. All that came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and go out, and shall find pasture. The thief cometh not, but that he may steal, and kill, and destroy: I came that they may have life, and may have *it* abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd layeth down his life for the sheep. He that is a hireling, and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, beholdeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth, and the wolf snatcheth them, and scattereth *them: he fleeth* because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know mine own,

and mine own know me, even as the Father knoweth me, and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and they shall become one flock, one shepherd.

*Then the Bishop shall say unto the Persons
to be Ordained Elders:*

You have heard, brethren, in your private examination, and in the holy lessons taken out of the gospel and the writings of the apostles, of how great importance this Office is whereunto ye are called. And now again we exhort you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye have in remembrance into how high a dignity and to how weighty an Office ye are called: that is to say, to be messengers, watchmen, and stewards of the Lord; to teach and

to admonish, to feed and provide for, the Lord's family; to gather the outcasts, to seek the lost, and to be ever ready to spread abroad the gospel, the glad tidings of reconciliation with God.

Have always therefore printed in your remembrance how great a treasure is committed to your charge. For they are the sheep of Christ, which he bought with his death and for whom he shed his blood. The Church which you must serve is his spouse and his body. And if it shall happen, the same Church, or any member thereof, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your negligence, ye know the greatness of the fault, and also the fearful punishment that will ensue. Wherefore consider with yourselves the purpose of the ministry toward the children of God, toward the spouse and body of Christ; and see that you never cease your labor, your care and diligence,

until you have done all that lieth in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all such as shall be committed to your charge unto that faith and knowledge of God, and to that ripeness and perfectness in Christ, that there be no place left among you either for error in religion or for viciousness in life.

Forasmuch then as your office is both of so great excellency, and of so great difficulty, consider how studious ye ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures, and in framing the manners, both of yourselves and of them that specially pertain unto you; and how ye ought to forsake and set aside, as much as you may, all worldly cares and studies.

We have good hope that you have weighed and pondered these things with yourselves long before this time: and that you have clearly determined, by God's grace, to give yourselves

wholly to this Office, whereunto it has pleased God to call you: that, as much as lieth in you, you will apply yourselves wholly to this one thing, and draw all your cares and studies this way; that you will continually pray to God the Father, by the mediation of our only Saviour Jesus Christ, for the assistance of the Holy Spirit; that by daily reading and weighing of the Scriptures ye may wax riper and stronger in your ministry; and that ye may so endeavor to sanctify the lives of you and yours after the rule and doctrine of Christ, that ye may be wholesome and godly examples and patterns for the people to follow.

And now, that this present congregation of Christ here assembled may also understand your minds and wills in these things, and that this your promise may the more move you to do your duties, you shall answer plainly to these things

which we, in the name of God and his Church, shall demand of you touching the same:

The Bishop. Do you think in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the order of Elders?

Answer. **I think so.**

The Bishop. Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain all doctrine required of necessity for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined out of the said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge, and to teach nothing as required of necessity to eternal salvation but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the Scriptures?

Answer. **I am so persuaded, and have so determined, by God's grace.**

The Bishop. Will you then give your faithful diligence always so to

minister the doctrine, and sacraments, and discipline of Christ, as the Lord hath commanded?

Answer. **I will so do, by the help of the Lord.**

The Bishop. Will you be ready with all faithful diligence to withstand all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's Word; and to use both public and private monitions and exhortations as need shall require and occasion shall be given?

Answer. **I will, the Lord being my helper.**

The Bishop. Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading of the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of God and of his Kingdom?

Answer. **I will endeavor so to do, the Lord being my helper.**

The Bishop. Will you be diligent to frame and fashion yourselves, and your families, according to the doctrine of

Christ; and to make both yourselves and them, as much as lieth in you, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?

Answer. I will apply myself thereto, the Lord being my helper.

The Bishop. Will you maintain and set forward, as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace, and love, among all Christian people, and especially among them that shall be committed to your charge?

Answer. I will so do, the Lord being my helper.

The Bishop. Will you reverently obey your chief Ministers, unto whom is committed the charge and government over you, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions, submitting yourselves to their godly judgments?

Answer. I will so do, the Lord being my helper.

Then shall the Bishop say:

Almighty God, who hath given you this will to do all these things, grant also unto you strength and power to perform the same; that he may accomplish his work which he hath begun in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

[After this the Congregation shall be desired secretly in their Prayers to make their humble supplications to God for all these things: for the which Prayers there shall be silence kept for a space.]

After which shall be said by the Bishop, the Persons to be ordained Elders all kneeling, Veni, Creator Spiritus, the Bishop beginning, and the Elders and others that are present answering by verse as followeth:

**Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire.**

**Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.**

**Thy blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love.**

Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight;
Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of thy grace;
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where thou art Guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of both, to be but ONE;
That through the ages all along
This may be our endless song:
Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*Then the Bishop shall pray in this wise, and
say:*

Let us pray.

Almighty God our heavenly Father,
we bless and magnify thy holy name
for the gift of thy most dearly beloved
Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, and
for all his Apostles, Prophets, Evangel-
ists, Teachers, and Pastors, whom he
sent abroad into the world. For these

so great benefits of thy eternal goodness, and that thou hast called these thy servants here present to the same holy Office and Ministry, we render unto thee our most hearty thanks. And now, O Lord, we most humbly beseech thee to grant that by these thy Ministers, and by those over whom they shall be appointed, thy holy name may be forever glorified, and thy blessed kingdom enlarged, through thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end. *Amen.*

Then the Bishop and the Elders present shall lay their hands severally upon the head of every one that receiveth the Order of Elders; the Receivers humbly kneeling, and the Bishop saying:

The Lord pour upon thee the Holy Spirit for the office and work of an

Elder in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the authority of the Church, through the imposition of our hands. And be thou a faithful dispenser of the Word of God, and of his Holy Sacraments; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Then the Bishop shall deliver to every one of them, kneeling, the Bible into his hands, saying:

Take thou authority as an Elder in the Church, to preach the Word of God, and to administer the Holy Sacraments in the Congregation.

Then the Bishop shall offer the following Prayer:

Most Merciful Father, we beseech thee to send upon these thy servants thy heavenly blessings, that they may be clothed with righteousness, and that

thy word spoken by their mouths may never be spoken in vain. Grant also that we may have grace to receive what they shall deliver out of thy Word as the means of our salvation; and that in all our words and deeds we may seek thy glory, and the increase of thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us by thy continual help; that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Al-

mighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

[If on the same day the Order of Deacons be given to some, and that of Elders to others, the Deacons shall be first presented, and then the Elders. The Collects shall both be used; first that for Deacons, then that for Elders. The Epistle shall be Ephesians 4, as before in this office; immediately after which, they who are to be ordained Deacons shall be examined and ordained as is below prescribed. Then the Gospel having been read, which shall be John 10, as before in this office, they who are to be ordained Elders shall likewise be examined and ordained, as in this office before appointed.]

FORM OF ORDAINING DEACONS

[When the day appointed by the Bishop is come, a sermon or exhortation may be given, declaring the Duty and Office of such as come to be admitted to the Order of Deacons.]

After which, one of the Elders shall present unto the Bishop all them that are to be Ordained, and say:

I present unto you these persons to be ordained as Deacons.

Then, their names having been read aloud, the Bishop shall say to the People:

BRETHREN, these are they whom we purpose, God willing, this day to ordain Deacons. For after due ex-

amination, we find not to the contrary, but that they are lawfully called to this function and ministry, and that they are persons meet for the same. But if there be any of you who knoweth any crime or impediment in any of them, for the which he ought not to be received into this holy Ministry, let him come forth in the name of God, and show what the crime or impediment is.

[If any crime or impediment be alleged, the Bishop shall desist from ordaining that person, until such time as the party accused shall be found clear of the same.]

Then shall be read the following Collect and Epistle:

The Collect

Almighty God, who by thy divine providence hast appointed divers Orders of Ministers in thy Church, and didst inspire thy Apostles to choose into the Order of Deacons thy first martyr, Saint Stephen, with others: mercifully behold these thy servants, now called

to the like Office and Administration; so replenish them with the truth of thy doctrine, and adorn them with innocency of life, that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve thee in this Office to the glory of thy name, and the edification of thy Church, through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Epistle. 1 Timothy 3. 8-13

Deacons in like manner *must be* grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them serve as deacons, if they be blameless. Women in like manner *must be* grave, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their own houses

well. For they that have served well as deacons gain to themselves a good standing, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Then shall the Bishop, in the presence of the People, examine every one of those who are to be Ordained, after this manner following:

The Bishop. Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Spirit to take upon you the office of the Ministry in the Church of Christ, to serve God for the promoting of his glory and the edifying of his people?

Answer. I trust so.

The Bishop. Do you unfeignedly believe all the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Answer. I do believe them.

The Bishop. Will you diligently read and expound the same unto the people whom you shall be appointed to serve?

Answer. I will.

The Bishop. It appertaineth to the office of a Deacon to assist the Elder in divine service, and especially when he ministereth the Holy Communion, to help him in the distribution thereof; to read and expound the Holy Scriptures; to instruct the youth; and to baptize. And furthermore, it is his office to search for the sick, poor, and impotent, that they may be visited and relieved. Will you do this gladly and willingly?

Answer. I will do so, by the help of God.

The Bishop. Will you apply all your diligence to frame and fashion your own lives and the lives of your families according to the doctrine of Christ; and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lieth, wholesome examples of the flock of Christ?

Answer. I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

The Bishop. Will you reverently obey them to whom the charge and

government over you is committed, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions?

Answer. I will endeavor so to do, the Lord being my helper.

Then the Bishop, laying his hands severally upon the head of every one of them, shall say:

Take thou authority to execute the office of a Deacon in the Church of God; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Then shall the Bishop deliver to every one of them the Bible, saying:

Take thou authority to read the Holy Scriptures in the Church of God, and to preach the Word.

Then one appointed by the Bishop shall read the Gospel:

Luke 12. 35-38

Let your loins be girded about, and

your lamps burning; and be ye yourselves like unto men looking for their lord, when he shall return from the marriage feast; that, when he cometh and knocketh, they may straightway open unto him. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them sit down to meat, and shall come and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, and if in the third, and find *them* so, blessed are those *servants*.

Immediately before the Benediction shall be said these Collects following:

Almighty God, Giver of all good things, who of thy great goodness hast vouchsafed to accept and take these thy servants into the office of Deacons in thy Church: make them, we beseech thee, O Lord, to be modest, humble,

and constant in their ministration, and to have a ready will to observe all spiritual discipline; that they, continuing ever stable and strong in thy Son Jesus Christ, may so well behave themselves in this office that they may be found worthy to be called into the higher Ministries in thy Church, through thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ: to whom be glory and honor, world without end. *Amen.*

Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of

God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

FORM FOR CONSECRATION OF DEACONESSSES

The following Order of Service may be preceded by a sermon or address, with such other exercises as may be desired; after which the President of the Conference Deaconess Board, or some one named, shall present those to be consecrated Deaconesses to the Bishop or other Consecrator.

Then shall be sung Hymn 423 or other appropriate Hymn

Then shall the following Scripture be read by the Leader, or by the Leader and Congregation responsively:

Matthew 25. 31-40

But when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the angels with

him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory:

And before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats;

And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

For I was hungry, and ye gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in;

Naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, and fed thee? or athirst, and gave thee drink?

And when saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

And when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me.

HYMN

[Or other selection from The Hymnal,
if preferred.]

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for thee;
Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.

Take my will and make it thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is thine own,
It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my God, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.

After which the Consecrator shall say:

Let us pray.

O eternal God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who didst call Phœbe and Dorcas into the service of thy Church, look upon *these thy servants* who *are* now to be set apart to the office of Deaconess, and grant *them* thy Holy Spirit, that *they* may worthily discharge the work committed to *them*, to the blessing of mankind and the praise of thy Christ, our adorable Saviour.
Amen.

Then shall the Consecrator address the Candidates, saying:

Dearly Beloved, we rejoice with you, that in the good providence of God a

door of usefulness has been opened for you in the service of the Church of Christ. To you are accorded peculiar privileges and priceless opportunities. Released from other cares, you are to give yourselves without reservation to the service of the Lord of the vineyard, ready for any duty which may fall to your lot. Like our gracious Master, you will henceforth go about doing good, ministering to the wants of a suffering, sorrowing, and sin-laden world. The Church now solemnly sets you apart for this special service. You are to minister to the poor, visit the sick, pray with the dying, care for the orphan, seek the wandering, comfort the sorrowing, and save the sinning. Such service is one which confers a great honor, but also lays upon you a solemn responsibility. What you have done alone with God, in consecrating your lives to this service, you are now

to do formally and publicly in the presence of the Church.

Consecrator. Do you believe that you have been led by the providence of God to engage in this work, and to assume the duties of this office?

Answer. I do.

Consecrator. Do you, in the presence of God and of this congregation, promise faithfully to perform the duties of a Deaconess in the Church of God?

Answer. I do.

Consecrator. Do you fully accept the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God?

Answer. I do.

Consecrator. Will you strive so to live that you may convey the blessed sense of God's presence to the hearts and homes of those to whom you minister?

Answer. I will.

Consecrator. Will you cheerfully ac-

cept the direction of those whom the Church may set over you in the prosecution of this work?

Answer. I will.

Then shall the Candidates kneel for a brief season in silent Prayer, after which the Consecrator shall say:

May the Spirit of the Living God descend upon you and abide with you evermore. May he impart to you grace for every trial, and strength for every service. May his presence be to you a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night; and may the blessing of God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and evermore. *Amen.*

Then shall the Candidates rise, and the Consecrator, taking the right hand of each one, shall say:

I admit thee to the office of a Deaconess in the Church of God, in the

name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Then shall be sung Hymn 411, or other suitable Hymn, followed by the Benediction

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

FORM FOR
LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF
A CHURCH

Corner Stone

FORM FOR LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF A CHURCH

*The Minister, standing near the place where
the Stone is to be laid, shall say unto the
Congregation:*

DEARLY BELOVED, we are taught in the Word of God, that, although the heaven of heavens cannot contain the Eternal One, much less the walls of temples made with hands, yet his delight is ever with the sons of men, and that wherever two or three are gathered in his name, there is he in the midst of them. And in all ages his servants have separated certain places for his worship: as Jacob erected a stone in Bethel for God's house; as Moses made a tabernacle in the desert; as Solomon builded a temple for the

Lord, which he filled with the glory of his presence before all the people. We are now assembled to lay the Corner Stone of a new house for the worship of the God of our fathers. Let us not doubt that he will favorably approve our godly purpose, and let us now devoutly unite in singing his praise, and in prayer for his blessing on this our undertaking.

Let one of the Hymns 656-666, from The Hymnal, be sung.

Then shall the Minister say:

Let us pray.

Most glorious God, the heaven is thy throne and the earth is thy footstool; what house then can be builded for thee, or where is the place of thy rest? Yet, blessed be thy name, O Lord God, that it hath pleased thee to have thy habitation among the sons of men, and to dwell in the midst of the assembly of

the saints upon the earth. And now, especially, we render thanks unto thy holy name that it hath pleased thee to put it into the hearts of thy servants to erect in this place a house for thy worship. We thank thee for thy grace which has inclined them to contribute of their substance for the glory of thy name: and we pray thee to continue thy blessing upon their pious undertaking. *Amen.*

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that peace and harmony may prevail in the counsels of thy servants, and that no selfish or divided aims may find place among them. May the work of this building be completed without hurt or accident to any person, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Grant that all who shall hereafter worship thee in the temple here to be builded, may so serve and please thee in all holy exercises of godliness, that

in the end they may come to that temple on high, even to the holy place made without hands, whose builder and maker is God. *Amen.*

Accept these our prayers, we beseech thee, O Lord, for the sake of thy dear Son; and to thee, the only true and living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be honor, praise, and glory, forever and ever. *Amen.*

Then shall the Minister read the following Psalm, or the Minister and People may read it in alternate verses:

Psalm 132. 1-9, 13-16

Lord, remember David, and all his afflictions:

How he swore unto the Lord, and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob;

Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed;

I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids,

**Until I find out a place for the Lord,
a habitation for the mighty God of
Jacob.**

**Lo, we heard of it at Ephratah: we found it
in the fields of the wood.**

**We will go into his tabernacles: we
will worship at his footstool.**

**Arise, O Lord, into thy rest; thou, and the
ark of thy strength.**

**Let thy priests be clothed with right-
eousness; and let thy saints shout for
joy.**

**For the Lord hath chosen Zion; he hath
desired it for his habitation.**

**This is my rest for ever: here will I
dwell; for I have desired it.**

**I will abundantly bless her provision: I
will satisfy her poor with bread.**

**I will also clothe her priests with sal-
vation: and her saints shall shout aloud
for joy.**

The Lesson. 1 Corinthians 3. 9-17

For we are God's fellow-workers: ye are God's husbandry, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given unto me, as a wise master-builder I laid a foundation; and another buildeth thereon. But let each man take heed how he buildeth thereon. For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. But if any man buildeth on the foundation gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, stubble; each man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire itself shall prove each man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work shall abide which he built thereon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as through fire. Know ye not that ye are a temple of God,

and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man destroyeth the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, and such are ye.

Then shall follow the Sermon, or an address suitable to the occasion, after which the Contributions of the People shall be received.

[Then shall the Minister, standing by the stone, exhibit to the congregation a box to be placed in an excavation of the stone. It may contain a copy of the Bible, the Hymn Book, the Discipline, the Church Year Book for the year, Church periodicals of recent date, the names of the pastor, trustees, and building committee of the Church, with such other documents as may be desired. A list of these may be read, after which the Minister shall deposit the box in the stone and cover it; and the stone shall be laid and adjusted by the Minister, assisted by the Builder.]

Then shall the Minister say:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we lay this corner stone for the foundation of a house to be builded and consecrated to the service of Almighty God according to the order and usages of the Methodist Episcopal Church. *Amen.*

Here may be offered extemporary prayer.

Then shall the Minister and the People say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*The service shall conclude with a Doxology
and the Benediction.*

**FORM FOR
THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH**

Dedication

FORM FOR THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH

The Congregation being assembled in the Church, the Minister shall say:

DEARLY BELOVED, the Scriptures teach us that God is well pleased with those who build temples to his name. We have heard how he filled the temple of Solomon with his glory and how in the second temple he manifested himself still more gloriously. And the gospel approves and commends the centurion who built a synagogue for the people. Let us not doubt that he will also favorably approve our purpose of dedicating this place in solemn manner, for the performance of the several offices of religious worship; and let us now devoutly join in praise to his name, that this

godly undertaking hath been so far completed, and in prayer for his further blessing upon all who have been engaged therein, and upon all who shall hereafter worship his name in this place.

Let one of the Hymns 656-666, from The Hymnal, be sung. Afterward let extemporary Prayer be offered, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, the Congregation all kneeling.

Then shall the Minister, or some one appointed by him, read:

The First Lesson. 2 Chronicles 6. 1, 2, 18-21, 40-42; 7. 1-4

Then spake Solomon, Jehovah hath said that he would dwell in the thick darkness. But I have built thee a house of habitation, and a place for thee to dwell in for ever.

But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain

thee; how much less this house which I have builded! Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Jehovah my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer which thy servant prayeth before thee; that thine eyes may be open toward this house day and night, even toward the place whereof thou hast said that thou wouldest put thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall pray toward this place. And hearken thou to the supplications of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: yea, hear thou from thy dwelling-place, even from heaven; and when thou hearest, forgive.

Now, O my God, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, and let thine ears be attent, unto the prayer that is made in this place. Now therefore arise, O Jehovah God, into thy resting-place,

thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O Jehovah God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness. O Jehovah God, turn not away the face of thine anointed: remember *thy* lovingkindnesses to David thy servant.

Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt-offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of Jehovah filled the house. And the priests could not enter into the house of Jehovah, because the glory of Jehovah filled Jehovah's house. And all the children of Israel looked on, when the fire came down, and the glory of Jehovah was upon the house; and they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshiped, and gave thanks unto Jehovah, *saying*, For he is good; for his lovingkindness *endureth* for ever. Then

the king and all the people offered sacrifice before Jehovah.

The Second Lesson. Hebrews 10. 19-25

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by the way which he dedicated for us, a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; and *having* a great priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in fulness of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience: and having our body washed with pure water, let us hold fast the confession of our hope that it waver not; for he is faithful that promised: and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works; not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day drawing nigh.

Then shall one of the Hymns 656-666, from The Hymnal, be sung; after which the Minister shall deliver a Sermon suitable to the occasion. Contributions shall then be received from the People.

Then shall the Minister read the following Psalm, or the Minister and the Congregation may read it alternately:

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord.

Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together:

Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.

For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.

Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

Then let the Trustees stand up before the Altar, and one of them, or some one in their behalf, say unto the Minister:

We present unto you this building, to be dedicated as a church for the worship and service of Almighty God.

Then shall the Minister request the Congregation to stand, while he repeats the following Declaration:

Dearly Beloved, it is meet and right, as we learn from the Holy Scriptures, that houses erected for the public worship of God should be specially set apart and dedicated to religious uses. For such a dedication we are now assembled. With gratitude, therefore, to

Almighty God, who has signally blessed his servants in their holy enterprise of erecting this church, we dedicate it to his service, for the reading of the Holy Scriptures, the preaching of the Word of God, the administration of the Holy Sacraments, and for all other exercises of religious worship and service, according to the Discipline and Usages of the Methodist Episcopal Church. And, as the dedication of the temple is vain without the solemn consecration of the worshipers also, let us now dedicate ourselves anew to the service of God. To him let our souls be dedicated, that they may be renewed after the image of Christ. To him let our bodies be dedicated, that they may be fit temples for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. To him may our labors and business be dedicated, that their fruit may tend to the glory of his great name, and to the advancement of his kingdom.

Then shall the Minister say these words of Dedication, all the People standing and responding in the words printed in black face type:

O God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Father:

To thee we dedicate this church.

Son of God, the Only Begotten of the Father, Head over all things to the Church, which is thy Body: Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, and King of thy people:

To thee we dedicate this church.

God the Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son, our Teacher, Sanctifier, and Comforter:

To thee we dedicate this church.

Eternal, Holy, and Glorious Trinity, three Persons, one God.

To thee we dedicate this church.

Then, the Congregation kneeling, the Minister shall offer the following Prayer:

O Most Glorious Lord, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto thee anything belonging unto us; yet we beseech thee, in thy great goodness, graciously to accept the dedication of this place to thy service, and to prosper this our undertaking. Receive the prayers and intercessions of all those thy servants who shall call upon thee in this house; and give them grace to prepare their hearts to serve thee with reverence and godly fear. Affect them with a due apprehension of thy divine majesty, and a deep sense of their own unworthiness; that so approaching thy sanctuary with lowliness and devotion, and coming before thee with clean thoughts and pure hearts, with bodies undefiled, and minds sanctified, they may always perform a service accept-

able to thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Regard, O Lord, the supplication of thy servants, that whosoever shall be dedicated to thee in this house by Baptism may ever remain in the number of thy faithful children. *Amen.*

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall receive in this place the blessed Sacrament of the body and blood of Christ may come to that holy Ordinance with faith, charity, and true repentance; and, being filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, may, to their great and endless comfort, obtain forgiveness of their sins, and all other benefits of his passion. *Amen.*

Grant, O Lord, that by thy Holy Word which shall be read and preached in this place, and by thy Holy Spirit grafting it inwardly in the heart, the hearers thereof may both perceive and know what things they ought to do,

and may have power and strength to perform the same. *Amen.*

Now, therefore, arise, O Lord, and come into this place of thy rest, thou and the ark of thy strength. Let thine eye be open toward this house day and night; and let thine ears be ready toward the prayers of thy children, which they shall make unto thee in this place. And whensoever thy servants shall make to thee their petitions here, do thou hear them from heaven, thy dwelling place, the throne of the glory of thy kingdom; and when thou hearest, forgive. Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that here and elsewhere thy ministers may be clothed with righteousness, and thy saints rejoice in thy salvation. And may we all, with thy people everywhere, grow up into a holy temple in the Lord, and be at last received into the glorious temple above; the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. And to

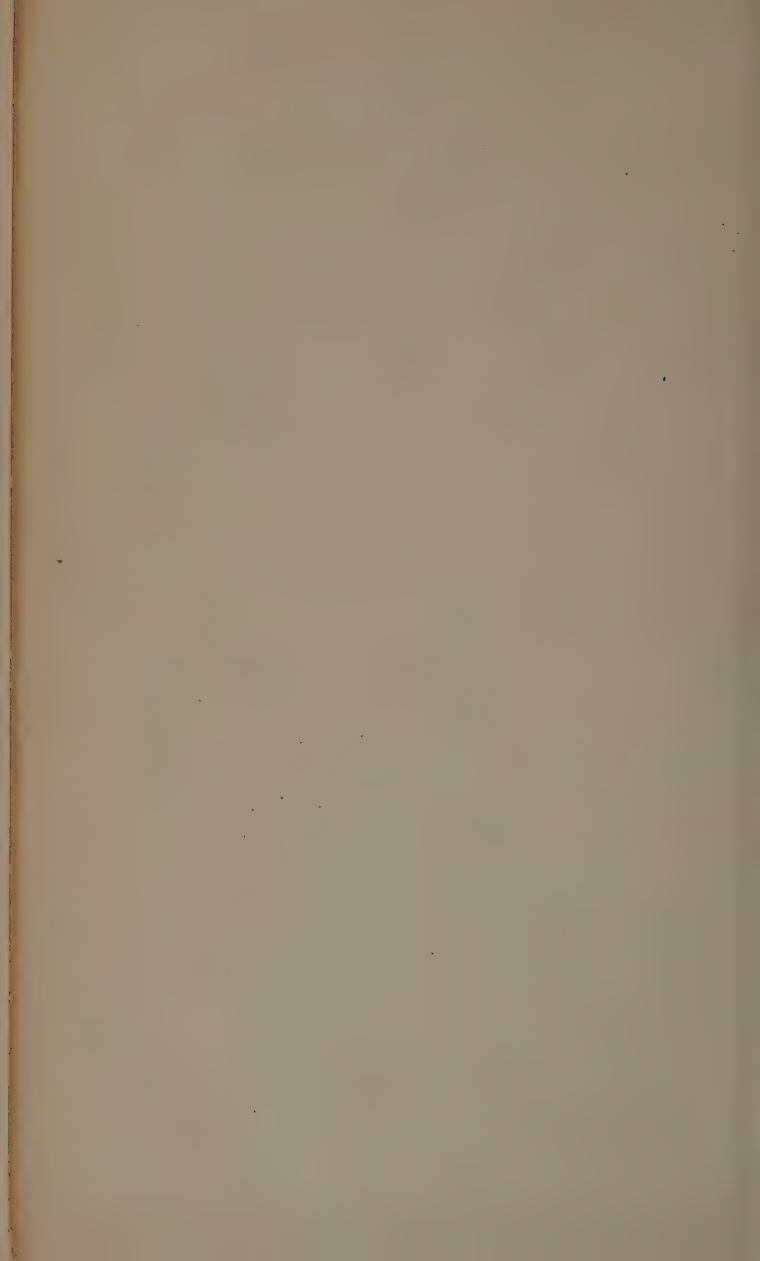
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be glory and praise, world without end. *Amen.*

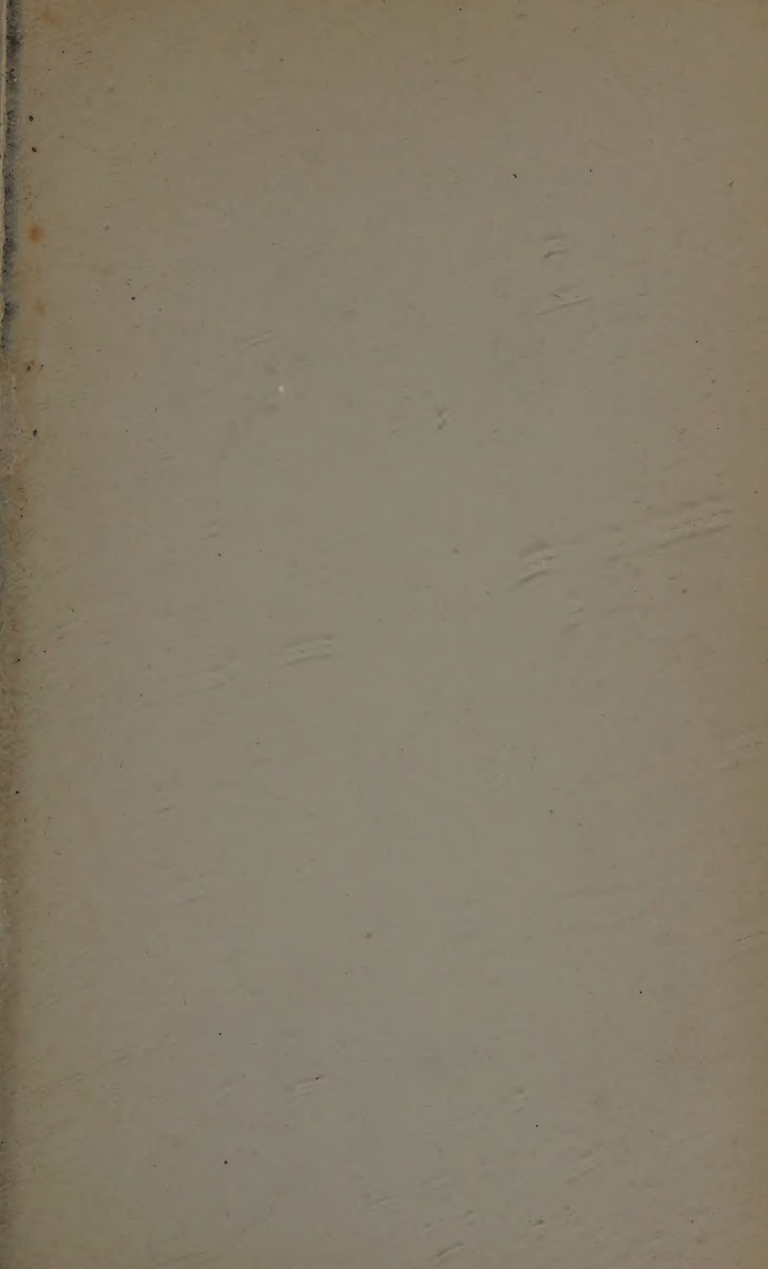
The service shall conclude with a Doxology and Benediction.

NOTE.—The Central Conference of Southern Asia is authorized to prepare and translate into the vernaculars simplified and adapted forms of such parts of the Ritual as may be deemed necessary, such portions to receive the sanction of the Board of Bishops.

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